

Special Session

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	July 2, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution Recognizing District 20 Legislators
Background	<p>The City of Takoma Park is located in Maryland District 20, which covers Takoma Park and much of Silver Spring. Delegate Sheila Hixson, long time chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, was reelected in 2006. Newly elected to District 20 last year were Senator Jamie Raskin, Delegate Tom Hucker and Delegate Heather Mizeur. All District 20 legislators were effective during the 2007 Legislative Session.</p> <p>The City of Takoma Park appreciates their service to the community.</p>
Policy	The City of Takoma Park recognizes persons who serve and assist the Takoma Park community.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	<p>Draft Resolution</p> <p>Newsletter item on “Highlights of the 2007 Legislative Session”</p>
Recommendation	Approve resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced by:

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION 2007 -**

Resolution Recognizing District 20 Legislators

WHEREAS, in November, 2006, Delegate Sheila Hixson was re-elected to office and Senator Jamie Raskin, and Delegates Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur were newly elected to office in District 20 of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the District 20 team was highly effective in passing significant State legislation despite having three first-year members; and

WHEREAS, the City of Takoma Park looks to the District 20 team for further advances on issues of importance to the City, including expanding municipal revenue sources, electric energy aggregation authority, environmental protection, transportation funding, and other funding and policies of special importance to Takoma Park; and

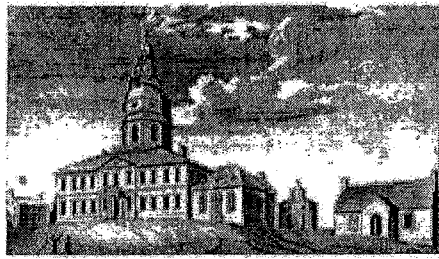
WHEREAS, the District 20 team members can build on the successes of the 2007 Legislative Session as they work with others to tackle the State's structural deficit in the coming year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Takoma Park recognizes the good work of Senator Raskin and Delegates Hixson, Hucker and Mizeur during the 2007 Legislative Session and looks forward to working with the District 20 Team in the upcoming years for the betterment of the City of Takoma Park and the residents of Takoma Park and Silver Spring.

ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF JULY, 2007.

ATTEST:

Jessie Carpenter
City Clerk



HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2007 Session featured a new Governor; many new legislators (including three-fourths of the District 20 team); budget worries; environmental goals; and discussions on the death penalty, affordable housing, and health care.

Successful freshmen

Each of the new District 20 representatives were successful in getting bills passed that were important to them, including the Living Wage Bill (Tom Hucker), the National Popular Vote Bill (Jamie Raskin), and a bill to allow children to remain covered by their parents' health insurance until the age of 25 (Heather Mizeur).

Budget worries

As Delegate Sheila Hixson said, "The bottom line is—there was no money." Nearly every request for programs that required new funding was turned down, including ones for popular issues such as affordable housing. The "structural deficit" that will hit the State in the coming year must still be addressed. Legislators may be called into Special Session later this year to work on restructuring the State's finances.

Bond Bill requests

Most bond bill requests were also turned down, including Takoma Park's request for funding for a new gymnasium. (A "bond bill" is a type of State grant for capital projects.) Montgomery County legislators focused the small amount of funding available on projects that serve a large or County-wide population. Projects that were successful included funding for the new Birchmere Music Hall and services for developmentally disabled persons. Projects that had received State funds in the past were generally not funded this year.

Major bills passed

The clean cars bill, the clean indoor air act (regulating smoking statewide), significant funds for school construction, living wage bill.

Major bills not passed

Abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, health care reform.

Bills advocated by Takoma Park that passed

- Regulations to provide timely information to tenants during condominium conversion
- Increased payment to municipalities for police services (although not as much as desired)
- Permission for municipalities to purchase and maintain street lights

Bills advocated by Takoma Park that did not pass

- Abolition of the death penalty
- Permission for municipalities to aggregate electric energy
- Funding for the gymnasium
- Removing mercury switches from cars

For information on the legislative agenda of the City of Takoma Park, contact Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison, 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org.